

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SP-02

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OES-06 DHA-02

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P R 141650Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7364

ININFO RUEHDT/US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1358

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECLA, EGEN, PFOR, SENV, MX

SUBJECT: ECLA-REGIONAL MEETING ON HABITAT, MEXICO CITY

SUMMARY: FIRST DAY REFLECTS SERIOUS EFFORT TO MOVE  
TOWARD REGIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ORGANIZATION AND TO IMPRESS  
LATING GOVERNMENTS WITH SEVERITY OF URBAN AND POPULATION  
PROBLEM. THERE IS TONE OF SOLIDARITY AND REGIONAL CAPABILITY  
REINFORCED BY ALL MAJOR STATEMENTS. LITTLE INTEREST IS  
APPARENT IN GLOBAL INSTITUTION. MORE THAN HALF OF DELEGATES  
FROM SUBSTANTIVE MINISTRIES OR WITH PRIOR HABITAT INVOLVEMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. OPENING SESSION BEGAN SEPTEMBER 13 AFTERNOON WITH  
INAUGURATION REMARKS BY PENALOSA(HABITAT CONFERENCE SYG),  
IGLESIAS(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECLA) AND MEXICAN PRESIDENT  
ECHEVERRIA (LE).

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2. LE STATEMENT SOUGHT TO INTERWEAVE WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OTHER EVENTS IN PROCESS IN MEXICO CITY (G-77 ECONOMIC COOPERATION MEETING, AND OPENING OF THE THIRD WORLD INSTITUTE) WITH HUMAN SETTLEMENT MEETING AND PROBLEMS.

3. FOLLOWING INAUGURAL CEREMONIES MEETING MOVED DIRECTLY INTO WORK OF THE CONFERENCE ELECTING FOLLOWING OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: IGNACIO OVALLE (MEXICL)

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: FIDELINA DE AGUILAR (D.R.)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: ALONSO FLORES GUERRA (HONDURAS)

RAPPORTEUR: JOSE MARIA VASQUEZ (ARGENTINA)

OVALLE'S OPENING REMARKS TRACKED MUCH OF WHAT ECHEVERRIA

HAD SAID, TOUCHING ON NEED TO RESTRUCTURE WHORLD ECONOMIC ORDER,

RELATIONSHIP OF HUMAN SETTLEMNTN PROBLEMS TO THOSE OF ARTIBRARY NATURE

OF MONETARY SYSTEM, TRADE POLICIES, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND DEBT

BURDENS OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. OVALLE ALSO MADE PASSING REFERENCE

TO THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL CARIBEEAN SHIPPING ASSOCIATION WHICH IS

CITED AS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPING COUNTRY

COOPERATION.

4. PENALOSA THEN BEGAN DISCUSSION OF EVALUATION OF HABITAT RESULTS

(AGENDA ITEM) WITH LENGTHY REVIEWS OF HIS VIEW OF

SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS OF CONFERENCE. HE IDENTIFIED THEM AS FOLLOW:

A) WORLD ATTENTION: QUOTING IGLESIAS' REMARKS HE

EMPHASIZED THAT CONFERENCE WAS NOT HELF TO SOLVE PROBLEMS BUT TO CALL

WORLD AND PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THEM, AND IN THIS IS HAD SUCCEEDED.

B) CONFERENCE RECOGNIZED THAT PRESENT DEVELOPMENT MODELS ARE

INADEQUATE, AND THAT COUNTRIES CANNOT SEEK TO COPY EXAMPLES OF

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHEN THEY DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES. FURTHER

THAT PROBLEMS WERE NOT SOLVED BY TECHNICAL ANSWERS BUT REQUIRED

POLITICAL DECISIONS.

C) DECISIONS ON HAND. PENALOSA STRESSED OUTCOME OF HABITAT REPORT

RELATING TO NEED TO ASSERT REAL CONTROL

OVER LAND SPECULATION TO FORCE PRIVATE PROPERTY TO BE USED FOR

PUBLIC BENEFIT OR, IF NOT IT SHOULD BE CONVERETED INTO PUBLIC

PROPERTY. (MENTIONED SWEDEN AND CANADA AS COUNTRIES CURRENTLY

ENGAGED IN PUBLIC DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE.)

D) CONSIDERED THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO BE

FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND DOCUMENT, DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW

ON SOME SECTIONS, AND FELT THIS WOULD BE KEY DOCUMENT IN

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YEARS TO COME.

5. PENALOSA WAS FOLLOWED BY CANADIAN DEL WHO READ

STATEMENT BY BARNEY DANSON ON CANADIAN ACTIVITIES SINCE

CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN RECENT ECE

MEETING (FYI: ECE MEETING JUST TERMINATED, DECIDED TO:

A) PROVIDE TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR WHEATEVER INSTITUTION

EMERGES; B) RECOMMEND CAREFUL REVIEW OF ROLE OF

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING BUILDING AND PLANNING "NOT CENTER ");  
AND C) RECOMMENDED EXTENSIVE USE OF HABITAT AUDIO-  
VISUAL MATERIALS. END FYI) CUBAN DEL MADE BRIEF INTERVENTION TO  
SUGGEST STATEMENTS OF ECHEVERRIA AND PENALOSA BE INCLUDED IN ECLA  
REPORT, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED.

6. BEHIND THE SCENES, THE WORK OF THE MEETING IS PROCEED-  
ING VIA TWO SUB-GROUPS COMPOSED OF LATIN AMERICAN GROUP  
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES ONLY. THE FIRST SUB-GROUP HAS  
ALREADY PREPARED DRAFT OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON GLOBAL  
PROPOSALS TO BE PROPOSED TO LATIN AMERICA GROUP IN NEW  
YORK. WHICH WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE CONSIDERED BY PLENARY.  
(THERE HAS BEEN INFORMAL AGREEMENT TO FOCUS THIS MEETING  
ON REGIONAL MATTERS AND NOT DISCUSS GLOBAL QUESTIONS,  
INSITUATIONAL OR OTHERWISE). THE SECOND SUB-GROUP IS  
PREPARING PAPER ON REGIONAL COOPERATION, WHICH MAY BE  
TABLED IN PLENARY AS EARLY AS AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 14.  
(FYI: THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE LATIN AMERICA GROUP PAPER  
LEAVES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DECIDE ON FINAL INSTITU-  
TIONAL ARRANGEMENTS BUT PROPOSES AS AN INTERIM MEASURE A)  
UPGRADING THE EXISTING CENTER (CHBP) TO A CENTER FOR  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS; B) EXPAND THE COMMITTEE FOR HOUSING,  
BUILDING AND PLANNING (COMMITTEE) FROM 56 TO 58; C)  
RECOMMENDS GIVING A REASONABLE SHARE OF AVAILABLE OR  
FUTURE RESOURCES TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS.  
END FYI)

7. GENERAL MOOD OF DELEGATES IS POSITIVE, LOW-KEYED AND  
HOPEFULLY EXPEDITIOUS TREATMENT OF MATTERS AT HAND. THERE  
IS ALSO VERY STRONG FEELING OF SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS OR  
INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE REGIONALLY DESIGNED AND BASED,  
WITH PRACTICALLY NO SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED FOR HEAVY  
HEADQUARTER OR NEW AGENCY INVOLVEMENT. EVEN MEXICANS  
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APPEAR TO BE FULLY RESIGNED TO THIS ATTITUDE AND HAVE  
GIVEN UP, AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO JUDGE ANY  
EFFORT TO GAIN REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR A GLOBAL  
INSTITUTION.

8. THE CONFERENCE APPEARS REASONABLY WELL ATTENDED, AND  
INCLUDES A GOOD REPRESENTATION OF LATIN UN SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES BUT FEWER CARIBBEANS THAN ONE MIGHT EXPECT. ONE  
REASON COULD BE THAT SMALLER COUNTRIES PROBABLY FELT  
THEY COULD COVER ACTIVITIES WITH RELATIVELY FEW PEOPLE,  
BUT THE LOGISTICS ARE SUCH THAT IT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE  
TO COVER MORE THAN ONE MEETING ON ANY ONE DAY.  
THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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